



## **Meeting Notes**

### **Golden Gardens Bathhouse Renovation: Project Advisory Team Meeting October 17, 2002, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at Ballard Community Center**

**PRESENT:** PAT members Jeff Cleaveland, Bruce Drager, Fred Felleman, Allen Hughes, Davidya Kasperzyk, Cindy Lantry, Vivian McKay, Jeffrey Stolsig, Kathie Huus/NW Sector Parks and Recreation Manager; design team member Susan Boyle; Mark Johnson/Parks PM.

#### **Introduction**

Susan Boyle, BOLA Architecture & Planning, outlined the agenda for this PAT meeting: to identify possible program elements for the renovated bathhouse, and to prioritize them. She pointed out that diverse viewpoints are good, as different perspectives influencing the design will result in a richer project. She summarized by asking, “What are common goals that we can build on?”

Comments from the last two PAT meetings focused on the unique qualities of place. At the August meeting, PAT members were excited to identify special aspects of site and building, and uses that could be served by it. At the September meeting, we discussed the history of the building and site. The teens that joined the September PAT meeting followed this approach, thinking about unique aspects of place in their presentation about the teen ARM (Art-Recreation-Music) center. They focused on the unique opportunities afforded by isolation of the Bath House from nearby residences, and the solid, noise-resistant mass of the building’s brick structure – qualities that allowed for evening music concerts. They mentioned the unique identity provided by the building, as the “Brick House,” for use by young people.

Our challenge is to determine the vision and goals that we share. These will serve as the criteria for making choices as we develop the building program and subsequent design. PAT members and other participants at the October PAT meeting developed the following responses to important questions for the renovation effort:

#### **What’s Unique about the Bath House and Golden Gardens Park?**

- Sun, beach, ocean
- Marine environment and habitat
- Raw shells & materials at an interstitial area of ecology
- The “pygmy forest” to the north of the building is interesting
- It’s the only building in the whole park – a solid structure and focal point that draws people
- The site is a remnant of natural shoreline – one of the only ones remaining – with cultural and natural history
- The building creates a focus at a unique place along the shoreline
- The building seems full of potential – without any specific identity now

- The building is right on the beach
- It (the building) is pretty covered up – it seems invisible and underutilized
- It allows something for all ages
- The building could be a focus for activity – for thousands of potential users
- A botanically rich site: there are unique plant communities in this area of the park
- A beacon on the beach, in the park – it's in the middle, between wetlands and the jetty
- The tide pool at the site – analogy of the building to a barnacle, opening/closing with the tides
- Building has three distinct pieces or parts (central space and side wings)
- The building's placement and appearance is brash -- in the park, right on the beach, a compact mass of brick and metal roofing.

### **What are your impressions about the building's design or conditions? How should it be changed?**

- It looks simply functional and rigid. It should be more organic and merge with the marine environment
- The building is very closed on the land side (east side). It needs a stronger east/west connection
- The building needs to be opened up, let light in, decrease the separation between outside and inside
- The beach is “essential,” and so is the building: It's Platonic, solid and exposed – it's all “just there”
- The plan symmetry is positive, as is the durability of its materials.
- The boxes of the building aren't connected – the plan still follows the original functions of a bathhouse
- Building lies low – it protects itself from storms and wind
- Light comes from the water side – but the side pavilions are solid, especially on the west side (restrooms)
- Amazing morning light this time of year (autumn)
- The wood, heavy timber framing is great to look at. There's something special about it being pretty without trying.
- Could the roof be opened with skylights?
- The building should be a haven in wet and windy weather for all year use – by extending overhangs, opening it more hours, a set or range of shelters
- It should be a sun shelter in the summer when the sand gets hot; create places to sit outside, exterior chairs should be provided
- We should “anchor” the building to the site in a way that shows that this is a place that people have used for generations

### **The Building Program**

Programming is an iterative process, both for the people participating in the process, and in understanding the existing building – what it can support, how its size and spaces accommodate functions, etc. What are potential uses? PAT members listed various activities or the functional elements that would support them, and their visions for use of the building. Then each PAT member designated their top four program elements with self-adhesive dots. This “dot voting” method of polling opinion—and indicated by the number following each item below—helped the PAT to develop a consensus on the importance of the suggested functions.

### **What would you like to see accommodated in the Bath House?**

- A big multi-purpose space -- 9

- Marine ecology displays and lab space for students and public (a lab with, for example, counters, access to saltwater for tanks, a table that can get wet, a sink, storage for microscopes – maybe a viewable area, even when secured or not operating.) -- 8
- Teen programs in art, recreation and music -- 7
- Outdoor patio space with cover -- 7
- An interpretive installation (about events, history, ecology, located inside or outside) -- 6
- A hub for the Beach Naturalist program (currently at low-tide times on summer weekends) -- 5
- Concession for food & drink with outdoor tables and chairs -- 3
- A Commercial kitchen -- 3
- A tool shed for landscaping/restoration workers' tools -- 3
- Storage rooms/lockers for various user groups' equipment & tools -- 2
- Storage for "outdoor things" (not just firewood) -- 1
- A mud room, i.e., a passageway into lab area from beach for boots, jackets, clean-off, etc. -- 1
- Coffee house -- 1
- Interpretive materials/displays for viewing during unstaffed times
- A wildlife viewing location, like platform
- An indoor meeting space for planning, conferences, small classes, etc: for 8 - 12 people
- An administrative space, i. e., a front desk for checkout, way finding, scheduling, and an office
- Added restrooms for park users

Compatible, shared uses will make the most of the building for the most people. Parks will work to operate the center for multiple uses, and this operational aspect will be a topic of a later meeting. The designers will consider if there are any specific uses that appear incompatible with one another.

### **Parks Program Areas**

Kathie Huus identified six program areas fundamental to Parks mission as a City agency that will be supported in every project:

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Environmental Stewardship | • Arts and Culture          |
| • Sports & Fitness          | • Out-of-School Programming |
| • Community Building        | • Life-long Learning        |

### **Community Meetings and Revised Schedule**

Mark Johnson, Parks project manager, reported that Parks Steering has agreed to the revised schedule that will allow summer programs to operate in the existing bathhouse this coming summer (2003). Construction will start in September 2003, and be complete by late spring 2004.

Community meetings to share the programming work done by the PAT will be scheduled for December 2002. There will be two other community meetings to share the progress of the design work in the first half of 2003.

### **Rental Policies: Report on Laurelhurst Community Center and Pritchard Beach Bathhouse**

Mark Johnson reported on current Parks rental policies at the above facilities. In both cases, rentals do not displace existing programming. Rentals are scheduled one quarter of the year ahead at Laurelhurst so as to allow new uses equal access to the facilities.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8 PM**

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